Henry O'Rielly on Thurlow Weed. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: The late Secretary of the Navy, Gidson Welles, defined Thurlow Weed to be a man with

remarkable propensity for remembering things that never happened. The definition was provoked by Mr. Weed's publication of the tement that in a conference between himself and Abraham Lincoln about the composition of this President's first Cabinet, Mr. Lincoln hesitated a long time in a choice between William Oper Johnson of Maryland and Gideon Welles of Connecticut, and that Mr. Welles "made the landing by the skin of his teeth." The ex-Sec cutary of the Navy temporarily extinguished the garrulous remembrancer of impossible events by showing that at the time Weed said that he and the President canvassed Cost Johnton's sustableness for a seat in the Cabinet, the distinguished Mary; ander had been three years In his grave!

On the authority of a pamphlet written by Henry O'Rielly of telegraph fame, and just published by the American News Company, we are induced to think Mr. Weed carried his markable propensity for remembering things that never happened" to an interview which he promond with a representative of the New York Graphic in September, 1879, which was thus reported in that paper:

MR THURLOW WIED'S STORY ***

"The Trials and Pensections which He Suffered as an Anti-Mana."

"May I sak," said I, "what is the greatest misfortine limit over imposed to you?"

"Discarcated districts I ever suffered?" he inquired.
"O, you must know what that was, Cruel, cruel I The

vibrat stander that ever was framed-that I was a mon eter of heutality, and had uncollated a corpse for the pur pose of helping the fortunes of a party."
"I don't exactly remember what you mean," I said.

"Why, Morgan! Morgan!" he explained, and his facassumed a parned expression. "I suffered untill dis-tress, and was more or loss under the ban for twenty-five years. Old acquaintances avoided me; even my family was made to feel the disgrace, as if I were a felon. I How was it?" I said. "Or perhaps you profer not t

te'k about it !"
"I have no objection. It's an old story now, and be longs to the past. I was living to Rochester at the time Morgan, who had exposed Masonry, was missing. It was believed that he had been drowned by members of the order in Lake Ontario. A body was found which an order in Lake Outario A body was found which an ewered the description of his. It was exhibited in pain-lic, and was recognized as being him by his family and friends. It was buried by them, Afterward it was claimed by the friends of a other man distintered, and ametier inquest held. There was great excitement over the inorder of Morgan, and I was prominent as an anti-Mason. When this last inquest was jeending, the lawser (Miscogner Griffin a fabrically of Judge E. Darwin Smit-Bloomer Griffin, father in law of Judge E. Darwin Smith man is a good enough Morgan,' I retorted, 'tid you prodeer the man that was killed. He went off and reported that I said the deceased was 'a good enough Morzan till after election.' This he was first published by Henry O'Rielly, editor of the Rochester Daily Advertiser, and made such an excitement that he stock to it and clabs rated it. Pinatly the lie took this form—that I had pulle out the beard, out the hair, and otherwise defaced or me

"Yes, a good many dist. It was a thing I could not dis-prove to their satisfaction. I was abhorred by tens of their saids. Old acquaintances cut me. I was pointed at on the street. Strangers would look askance at meceived threatening anonymous letters. I was made to feel everywhere and every hour that I was a marked rimo. And my poor family, sir," said he, lifting his hand with a pathetic gesture, "were made to feel the crue; thru-us in ways I cannot mention." "How long did this estraction (ast?"

"Fifteen or twenty years actively, and in same direct tions a much longer time."
"It werns strange that injustice should thrive so.

lie was the foundation of his fortune. I drifted to Albany, and at last fived the shoeting caloning down. Finally O'Ricity, who might have been worth millionaif be had stuck to the telegraphs, which he manipulated at first speculated in other things and lost money. He kept losing. He lost everything he had at last." "Were you glad?"

"I was grateful that the Lord didn't allow such vil lain; to thrive focuser," the old gentleman confused "and then I felt sorry for him."

Mr. O'Rielly's pamphlet sustains with crush-Ing averments and proofs his side of the issue mate by Weed's declaration that O'Rielly lied when he editorially published in the Bochester Advertiser that Wood had said that the identifical body of the drowned Timothy Monroe was a good enough Morgan till after election.

It is nearly fifty-four years ago that an act of unlawful folly, committed on a characterless. mis-reant, yet a citizen entitled to all the rights and immunities of eltizonship in the State of New York, gave opportunity to found what William L. Stone, in one of his serial letters to John Quincy Adams, called "Speculative Anti-Masonry." It was in September, 1826. William Morgan, a Virginian: a common soldier in the war with Great Britain of 1812; by trade a bricklayer and stonemason; a sot, idler, and, by practice, a wandering sucker on the relief funds of Masonic lodges, temporarily abode in Batavia, Ganesee County. He was a Mason of the third degree. He is desoribed to have been as envious, malicious, and vindictive as he was idle and needy. He had conning and determination. Disappointed in his expectation to have his name included in the charter of a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons founded in Batavia, from which he has been excluded on account of the disceputable. ness of his life and worthlessness of his charac ter, he determined on the revenge of publishing the secrets of his order. In an hour of drunken confidence he revealed his purpose to a companion whose bad habits had worked him out of the editorship of a newspaper. This man saw money in the book, and quickly made himself a copartner in the speculation of preparing it for the press. In the summer of 1826 the publication by Miller and Morgan of a "Full Dislosure of the Secret Rites and Coremonies of Free Masonry" was openly announced.

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We have not space to give the history of the resentment kindled in the Masonia Order of western New York, Canada, and northwestern Pennsylvania by the announcement of Mogan's treasonable latent; nor the history of thaction taken to defeat the publication; the negotiations to purchase the manuscript; the endeavor to seize it on an execution to satisfy a trifling debt; the gathering of a large force of armed strangers in Batavia to storm the build-ing in which the publication was preparing, and destroy the work; the subsequent firing of the building at night to consume its contents; the repeated arrest and imprisonment of Morgan on the small debts he left behind him in his unsettled life; nor the legal proceeding on which he was finally carried to Ontario County and looked at night in the Canandaigua jail, on a julizment got on a claim for two little articles of clothing he had borrowed to wear, whose value did not exceed two dollars. The claim was big enough to shut the gates of life on him

Almost fifty-four years ago; yet there are many men living in the State of New York who can frushly recall the thrill of excitement that ran all through the western counties as the dramatic story was told from lip to lip of the satisfaction by the plaintiff of that two dollar judgment and costs in the jail after 9 o'clock at night, and the almost enforced discharge of the debtor by the wife of the jailer who was absent from home, the woman's ignorant instinct making her suspicious and obstinate, and almost defeating the arranged abduction. Outside, and on the steps of the jail. Morgan was seized by three men. gagged and bound. Soon a covered carriage, with its curtains tightly drawn, was rapidly driven out of Canandaigua on the road to Rochester. Be lated men on their way home heard issuing from it as it sped past under the starlight. Closely ourtained all the way, the carriage dashed through Victor, Charkson, Gaines, Ridgeway, Lewiston, Youngstown, to the unoccupied Fort Ningara. As the horses gave out with the speed

had begun to Uraw a plough. At a sign from the driver the farmer unbitched his horses. took them into the road, silently put them to the coach, then led the spent span away. The course of the allent, tightly curtained carriage, driven ever at high speed, was easily traced from Canandaigua to Fort Singara, But Morgan was never publicly seen after his Masonic brothers opened to him the prison doors of the Ontario jail, near midnight of Sept. 12, 1826.

The distinguished William L. Stone called anti-Masonry "speculative" politics. There was living then in the county of Monroe, ad joining that in which Morgan idled and conspired, a man with eyes of unequalled keenness for seeing a political speculation. He had seen the editor of a sickly newspaper in Rochester, which died the death of sale and merger. Politics was his livelihood incidentally, his instinct primarily. His touch on the ruling motives of human action was nearly un-To this keen, quick, unserupulous manthe abduction of Morgan opened a political gold mine. It contained every element for a great political commotion. It was tragody, with nighttime and darkness and overing curmins in it, and the smothered mouning of a helpless man, gagged and trying

to cry for water to cool the thirst of his terror and fever; a tragedy containing a widely rooted unseen, tresistible conspiracy superior to the laws and supreme above the safeguards of so iety; a tragedy whose end was unknown, and therefore endowed with almost an immortality of interest, for the imagination never folds it vings over a mystery; a tragedy to excite to cuel fromy a people habituated to feel that their persons and property were absolutely safe in the forms of self-government, while an inisible power existed among them that could try, condemn, and execute without the possility of bail, appeal, or pardon, and could so foctually cover the execution that a witness to estily to it could not be found on the earth

A political speculation! It was a politial bonanga into which this keen-eyes politician flashed his hunger and ambition Instantly he started the Anti-Masonic Inquire newspaper, and with it began to blow and fan the fears and hates of the six western counties of the State of New York Into a new politica party. He put himself at the head of the anti-Masonic excitement. He organized public meetings to denounce the abduction of Morgan and provide for the detection and punishment of the abluctors. Heorganized warfare on Masoury as langerous to free institutions, hostile to the laws and Government, a peril to life and prop-

rty, and a foo to Christianity.

Space precludes the history of the develop ment of the anti-Masonic excitement and the growth of Thurlow Weed's party. Let it suffice o say that society in western New York was iterally uprooted by it. Nearly seventy men of he best families in six counties were hurried into indictment for conspiracy, abduction, or murder. Fingers of suspicion were steadily pointed at many more. Terror and shame were carried into hundreds of households. Shurches, communities, and business relations were ruptured. The scars left by the anti-Musonic invasion remain to this day. tilated the features of the Ontario corper, so as to make

In the fall of 1827, nearly thirteen months fter Morgan was abducted. Timothy Monroe, a Canadian farmer, came with a sloop load of wood to the hamlet of Niagara, In Canada, opposite old Fort Ningara in New York. Waiting the sale of his cargo, he crossed the river on business in a small boat, with a companion named John Cron. On his return from the American side, the boat was upset and Monroe was drowned. A few days after, and on the 7th f October, a body was found on the beach of Lake Ontario, forty miles east of Fort Niagara, near the mouth of Oak Orchard Creek, in the vicinity of Bochester. A coroner's inquest was held. Thurlow Weed attended it. There were no abrasions nor marks of violence on the body. It was not decayed. There was nothing in the pockets of the dead man's clothing whereby he could be identified. The remains were officially

buried as those of a man unknown, the cause of whose death was drowning. Fortunately for history and truth, his clothing was not buried with him. This, with the contents of he pockets, was carefully preserved. Scarcely had the mound been heaped and the sod planted above the stranger's grave, when some fool in the crowd unluckily suggested that the body might possibly be Morgan's! Men's minds had been ripened for the wildest follies of belief. No sooner was Morgan's name uttered than the report spread with electrical rapidity, till it pervaded the State, that the body of the abduct-

d Morgan had been washed ashore at Oak Orchard Crook and hastily buried by parties who knewhim when living. The coveted corpus deticti was at last within reach of anti-Masonic machination, and indictments for murder might now be found! And the remains of a murdered martyr were available to kindle to

the highest pitch the political fury engineering against the order of Masonry. A father and son, named Potter, found Timothy Monroe's body. One of them knew Morgan vell, having lived in the same house with him. He declared at the inquest, and subsequently testified, that this corpse was not Morgan's, and could not possibly be Morgan's; that the body was larger than Morgan's: that Morgan's head was bald, whereas the head under inquest, as was visible to all, was thickly covered with hair; that Morgan's face was always smoothly shaven, whereas the cheeks of the corpse were covered with whiskers. The condition of the remains. too, undecayed, uneaten by fishes, and showing no signs of violence, or stricture by cords, precluded the possibility of their being Morgan's who, if drowned, as was generally believed, has been in the water for over a year. But if Timothy Monroe had risen from the dead and testifled that he was not Morgan, he would not have been listened to. The public mind would not derate any proof that the body of the martyr Masonic vengeance had not been hurried der ground to rob justice of her supreme

atimony. A second inquest was demanded. with a howl that overwhelmed dissent, and it was quickly held, too. Mr. O'Rielly's account of this performance is as follows:

Mr. Thurlow Weed was the chief engineer of the second inquest—that by which the body was made to new master for a few days only as a "good enough Marzan," etc. He caused the corpse tabe disintered on the next Saturday, and returned to Rochester or Sunday r some others to askst at a second inquest, to be held orthe following day-leaving the curps: meanwhile in Marons," as was said. Returning to Rochester after this commutering expedition, by stage coach, (there being parallegate in those days.) Mr. Weed came in to Eusvorth's Eagle Tavern, after the usual dinner hour, where ir John B. Eiwood, a regular boarder, was at the table.

having been delayed by a patient.
What occurred there and thereafter, concerning his intercourse with Mr. Weed, &c., I here insert substantially as told me immediately after by Dr. Eiwood, whose

affice adjoined mine in the opposite block. Observing that Mr. Wood seemed rather travel worn between old acquaintances, personal and political. The reply, as told me by Dr. E., was substantially that he Nr. W. had been out to see a body found on the lake share, near Oak Orchard Creek, where it had been burned, after a Coroner's inquest, as that of an "unknown person"—who some people supposed might be Morgan. (Mr. Weed had previously stated in this conecreation that he had never seen Morgan.)

Dr Eiwood's statement to me was that, as a medical practitioner, his professional studies impelled him to learn more about the effect of submersion on human subjects, in addition to the interest he felt, in commo with people generally, in the case of Morgan, who was said to have been "drowned more than a twelvemonth before, with weights attached to keep the body submerged." Ac.
Dr. E:wood inquired particularly about the conditie

of the corpse—especially whether the death had been converted into a loposer—if it had not become patrid or untillly washed away from the boues. Conversation was next turned by Dr. Riwood on the appearance of the face, head Ac. In reply to his inquiries, Dr. Elwood's statement to me was that Mr. Weed answered substantially that they were not much. If any altered from those taily that they were not much, if any, altered from those of a person lately dead, except that the skin was considerably discolored. (Be it remembered that no marks of violence whatever—no marks of "ropes and weights to keep the body from floating "—and certainly no marks of having been "swept over Ningara Fails," were men-tioned in this conversation.)
"How about the head?" Dr. Etwood then inquired.

of the page and the distances driven, relays were hitched to the pole with a promptness that Dreved prearrangement. In the early morning the fightly custained vehicle was pulled up at the fonce of a field in which an excellent team.

wood informed me, was emistantially that, excepting some slight traces of soliness over the temples (as is often the case), the head was well 20ver—" with hair—there being a large jaich of heir on top—which aclair. Mr. Weed thusbraded to Dr. Elwood, as the latter informed me, by placing his hand, with dingers nearly fully outspread, on top of his own head. Dr. Elwood further explained the malter to the hard. explained the matter to me by laying his searly outspread hand on my head, while giving me these particulars, within a half hour or the time when this conversmion occurred with My Weed.

Dr. Elwowd said to me that he then teld Mr. Weed why

his inquiries were so particular about the condition and appearance of the corner, substantially as follows:

"I was a medical advisor of Capt Morgan when be lived in Rochester," sant Elwood; "and one of his chief

aiments concerned the eyes, which made is necessary for ne to place my hand often on his head, so as to turn his eyes upward toward me, as then I could be ther exam-ine them. This and my other acquaintance with him en-methed me to know that he (Norgani wore no whiskers) and as for the top of his head, it was for years utterly destitute of hair. Such facts, within my own knowledge, slows with what you say about the condition of the body, and especially about the hair and whiskers," said Or. Hiwood to Mr. Weed, "satisfy me that the body is

somewhat confused remark, to the effect, substantially,

somewhat confused remark, to the effect, substantially, that it seemed so; then—it could not be Morgan's body—and suidenly turned the conversation.

These statements about hair and whiskers were correlorated by the testimony of several others touching the condition of the body when first found and buried, after the first impost, and after it was disinterred by Mr. Weed and lettin charge of "taree trusty near" uit be abould return from Rochester with others to have a second inquest held on the following Monday. Mean-time (on Sunday at the dinner with Dr. Elwood in Boch-ester). Mr. Weed bearned about the hair and whiskers which made such distinguishing marks on the tace of the corpse-marks which would at once satisfy any one who had known Norgan that the corpse could not be his. f it had the head well nevered with hair, and the large whishers in such numistakable condition as Mr Weed told Dr. E. wood in the showe mentioned conversation— marks sworn to by sandry witnesses on the third in-quest) Mr. Weed said, in conversation with El wood, that he (Widd) not know Morgan or his pseudiarities, and spoke of the corpse as he first saw it. (But, singular to related the hair and whiskers, profuse as they were when disinterred by Mr. Weed, as stated by himself in the conversation with Dr. Riwood, had unreellously dis-spipeared, when on Monday the second inquest was held-albeit there were "three trusty men" to guard the body white Mr. Weed was absent in Rochester, with orders to let no one see the corpse till after his return.)
On returning immediately to his office, Dr. Etwood
called to tell me the substance of his conversation, as above given, especially as it was "closely connected with the prevalent excitement about Morran."
(Dr. Elwood was for half a century one of the most prominent physicians of western New York, and for ten

years Postmaster of Rochester.)

A few minutes afterward, another physician, Dr. Henry, came into the office where Dr. Riwood and I were conversing (Dr. Kiwood's office and mine being next door to each other in the same building esposite the hotel where Dr. E. and Mr. W. met accidentally for a late disners. Dr. liency asked Elwood it he would "attend to his (Henry's) patients for a couple of days, as he would be staent from towa." "Certainly, cerwould be absent from towa." "Certainly, cer-tainly," said Elwood, whose intimacy with an old friend induced him further to inquire in what direction Dr. Henry was about to travel. "I'm gring along with Mr. Weed and others to be at an inquest to merrow, in Oriesna Osunty, over a besty lately round there, said Dr. Henry, substantially. Some con-versation then ensued between the physicians respect-ing the talk just held by Dr. Elwood with Mr. Weed, as aiready described. In this conversation Dr Elwood ex-nressed surprise at what he thought were queer pro-ceedings in this matter, and, among other things, re-ferred to the conversation he had just had with Mr. Weed. Dr. Henry said substantially that he "knew Weed. Ir. Henry said substantially that he "knew nothing about the matter, further than that he had been invited to go out with some of the "Mogan's Committee," and be present at the new inquest over a nody supposed by some to be Mogan's," adding that "the stoke was to start soon with Mr. Weed and others on their return to Oak Orchard," Ac.

There also went with the Weed party to view the

corpse a doctor or dentist who had nulled two teeth-roon Morgan, three or four years before. The testi-mong given on this inquest by that dentist or doctor, and substantially confirmed by another dector or deutrst, whe was present, is too currous to be omitted, especially as it is one of the convincing things included in M. Weed's remarkable story about this equally remarkable affair. Hence I quote the exact words from his

truthiul "history."

After one of these dentists said he had pulled two teeth from Norgan three or four years before, he added. "Mrs. Morgan handed me the two toeth which she said lex. tracted; and they will slide into the places or vacancies ni the head of this body quite well, though the face is so much sworten that it is impossible to decide exactly whether they were taken from this lead?"

Another doctor is stated in Weed's "history" to have and: "On examining the body I find two teeth gone and one broken off, the two teeth which she had will slide into and fill the vacancies in the jaw pretty well." if it On this second inquest Timothy Monroe was

bald and without whiskers. Mr. Weed had left the body in charge of three trusty men, selected by himself. When again submitted to inquest the crown of the head and the cheeks were found to be shaven. The difficulty in the way of an official identification of the remains as those of the martyred Morgan being thus got rid of, the needed verdict was easily obexclude the testimony of the Potters, who found the body on the lake shore, and also of half a dozen witnesses to Weed's statements to Dr. Elwood respecting its condition when he saw it at the first inquest. A sensational history of the discovery of the murdered martyr's remains was immediately written by Weed, signed by him and three others, printed, and scattered all over the State. Its conclusion was audaciously plous:

For ourselves, we do conceive that the body discovered in the shore of Lake Ontario has been identified as the ody of Capt William Morgan beyond the shadow of a

In this discovery we cannot but trace the hand of an overruling Providence, who, when all human efforts were found too weak effectually to penetrate the mysterious secret, has chosen, in His own time and by Ilis

nysicry.

The induces us to rely with a stronger hope upon the same Providence to unravel the remainder of this en tangled skein, and to provide means for bringing all the perpetrators of a daring outrage to merited punishment.

These means were indictments for murder. The grand juries were set to work. Theretofore they had been used only to find bills for conspiracy and abduction. To stem this torrent of persecution and to expose the impos ture which gave it vigor, Henry O'Rielly, Ebenezer Griffin, Robert H. Stevens, Luther Tucker, and other citizens of Rochester, equally reputable and influential, determined to hold a third inquest upon Timothy Monroe's body. It was held with the fullest publicity. Mr. Weed's own Morgan Committee was specially invited to attend it.

The "martyr" had been noisily taken to Bataria and buried at the expense of the auti-Masons. The funeral was a political one, dramatic in its incidents, very impressive in its extraordinary size. Thousands of people from lifferent countles were in the cortége or moving parallel to it. The preparation for the third nquest, advertised to be held at Batavia, was nade at Gaines, in Orleans County, There were the widow of Timothy Monroe, his son, and the man Cron, who was with him in the boat when he was drowned. They had been induced to come from Canada. The clothing of the dead man, which had been nailed up in a box when he was first buried, was submitted to the three witnesses. They each and all recognized every article as Timothy Monroe's. The wife, with great emoof some of the garments. The eking out of one leg of the trousers with a different piece of cloth, because the pattern, bought by the son, had been scant, was dwelt on by the son and his mother. A portion of the contents of the pockets were religious tracts in English typography, and bearing the imprint of the British Trace Society, such tracts as then were circulated only in Canada. All three testified to the drowned man's being full whiskered and heavily haired upon his crown. Then came the formal inquest at Batavia. All of the coroner's jury were anti-Masons except two. The jury sat in the midst of an immense concourse of people. Weed and his Morgan Committee were conspicuously absent. Monroe's widow,

found, and that when he was dug

tained from the jury; for care had been taken | Knight Temptar encampment was installed at Lewiston.

his son, and Cron positively identified the remains to be Timothy Monroe's. His clothing was identified by each of them. The tracts were put in evidence. Weed's dentists were utterly confuted by the visible proof that the doad man had lost five of his teeth instead of two. The Potters, father and son, proved that he was whiskered and not bald when found, and that when he was dug up

Service of the first words and the control of the c